1: Conzemius M-4, 5 (1921) 1932
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the English freebooters of Jamaica during the latter part of the seventeenth century. The most important of the foreign-made articles, which are now considered indispensable to the bulk of the Indians, are the following: Salt, machetes, axes, knives, adzes, hoes, light 3-legged iron cooking pots, fishhooks, triangular files, shotguns with ammunition (powder, shot, percussion caps), cotton goods of various patterns (calico, gingham, salampores, drilling, blue dungaree), bright-colored handkerchiefs, ribbons, thread, needles, beads, combs, small looking-glasses, jew's-harps, clay pipes, tobacco, etc. In order to obtain these commodities the Indians will work for a short time as day laborers, or sell some forest or agricultural products. Very little value is placed upon labor performed at home, and certain homemade articles, which have taken a considerable time to prepare, are often bartered for a mere trifle.

METAL WORKING

Gold ornaments appear to have been known in pre-Columbian days and were used for ceremonial purposes and for personal decoration. Breastplates of wrought gold were already observed by Columbus in 1502 at Cariay, but this locality must be placed in the territory of Costa Rica and not on the Mosquito Coast, as has been done by various historians. About 1699 silver breastplates, either bought from the Europeans or hammered by themselves out of silver coins, formed part of the gala dress of the Miskito (M. W.: 308); they may have been emblems or insignia of authority.

Ornaments of gold were probably introduced among the Miskito and Sumu by way of trade from the Pacific side of Nicaragua or from the Talamanca region of Costa Rica, where they were common. They were probably the work of the Chiriqui goldsmiths, who had attained a high degree of skill in the making of low-grade gold objects. But they must have existed very sparingly on the Mosquito Coast, for in recent days none has been discovered in the country. Figurines and amulets of the precious metal are said to have been discovered in the Pispis mining district, around Cucra Hill, on the Rio Wawa, and at El Dorado (Honduras), but these reports need confirmation.

The rude tribes of the Mosquito Coast did not know the art of working gold, copper, bronze, or any other metal; this art was known, however, to the Indians of Bolivia, Peru, Mexico, and other regions of America in pre-Columbian days. Placer mining is carried on in many parts of the country by whites, negroes, and Ladinos, but not by the Indians. There is no reliable record of the Miskito and Sumu knowing how to wash gold from the sands of the numerous auriferous streams before the arrival of the Europeans. Even to-day

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this is done by them in isolated cases only; they use a round, low bowl or *batea*, in which they place some of the auriferous sand together with some water. Then, whirling the *batea* rapidly, a feathery stream of mingled sand and water flows constantly over the edge. When the sand is nearly all exhausted, the bowl is filled again, and this process is repeated a number of times. Finally a little deposit of grains of gold will be found at the bottom.

These Indians have no name in their own language for either gold or silver, but they call these precious metals "yellow money" and "white money" respectively. Their word for money (M. and T.: *lala;* P. and U.: *lihwan*) might have designated gold originally, or perhaps metal in general. Still, there is a native name for iron or steel (M. and T.: *silak;* P. and U.: *yasama*).

Cheap bracelets, earrings, and finger rings of foreign origin are now very common among both tribes. The iron and steel objects, which are now in universal use on the coast, have not been cast or forged locally, but have been obtained in trade. Harpoons are made from our common triangular files with the aid of another file. This process is very slow and tedious. The iron points or "heads" for arrows and spears are generally made from old cask hoops or from other scrap iron.

STONEWORK

METATES.—Stonework is practically limited to the manufacture of crude metates or maize grinders (M.: *walpa-akbaya;* T., P.: *ki-watak;* U.: *ki-tiknaka*) which are used for grinding maize, cacao, or other grains or fruits. They are merely plane slabs of a tufflike rock with a slightly concave grinding surface, on which the grains are crushed with the aid of a handle or metlapil (M.: *walpa-mihta;* S.: *ki-mak*). These crude metates are made with the aid of a hard blackish stone chisel (M.: *kwa-sikna;*[a] T., P.: *pransa, paransa;* U.: *ki-tisna*).

ANTIGUALES.—Elaborate metates, cylindrical bowls and mortars of a hard granitelike material are occasionally found on the Mosquito Coast. Isolated specimens of these articles are met with, but as a rule they are found in deposits from miniature size, perhaps children's toys, to giant sizes for ceremonial purposes. These objects exist in all stages of manufacture, but the finished product is now very scarce, having either been taken away or broken.

Such old sites or "antiguales," as they are known locally, are especially numerous in Honduras between the rivers Plátano and Paulaya; they are found generally on some elevated spot within a

[a] At Ciudad Antigua, in the Nicaraguan department of Nueva Segovia, I heard this tool called "cunbul" (=*kwa-bul*) by the Spanish-speaking inhabitants. In the Miskito language *sikna* means "black," while *bul* is "mottled" or "speckled."